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ATTACK ON THE CAPITOL

TRUMP AGAIN IMPEACHED

Historic vote: Ten Republicans back the unprecedented effort

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi displays a signed article of impeachment against President Donald Trump at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday after a vote to impeach Trump for incitement of insurrection. *Stefani Reynolds, Getty Images*

Jonathan D. Salant *For The Star-Ledger*

Against a backdrop of unprecedented security, the U.S. House on Wednesday voted to make Donald Trump the first U.S. president ever to be impeached twice, accusing him of 'inciting violence against the government' when his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol over his false claims of a stolen election.

The vote was 232-197 with every House Democrat voting yes, including all 10 from New Jersey. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, D-12th Dist., who was recovering at home after being treated for the coronavirus, voted by proxy.

"We know that the president of the United States incited this insurrection, this armed rebellion, against our common country," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., beginning the floor debate. "He must go. He is a clear and present danger to the nation that we all love."

The articles of impeachment now go to the Senate, which will decide whether to acquit or convict Trump.

However, the trial likely won't begin until after Joe Biden becomes president next week. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said after the vote that he wanted to spend the next week focusing on the inauguration and not impeachment.

On Wednesday, both of New Jersey's House Republicans — 2nd District Rep. Jeff Van Drew and 4th District Rep. Chris Smith — again opposed impeaching Trump, even as 10 other GOP lawmakers, including House Republican Conference Chairwoman Liz Cheney of Wyoming, voted with the Democratic majority.

Van Drew was one of only two House Democrats who voted in December 2019 not to impeach Trump the first time. He

SEE IMPEACHMENT, A4

Backed by N.J. Dems

The vote to impeach President Donald Trump on Wednesday was 232-197 with every House Democrat voting yes, including all 10 from New Jersey. Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, D-12th Dist., who was recovering at home after being treated for the coronavirus, voted by proxy.

ATTACK ON THE CAPITOL

Sherrill seeks probe of alleged 'recon' tours

Jonathan D. Salant *For The Star-Ledger*

U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill said Wednesday that she is asking for an investigation into her allegations that members of Congress led "reconnaissance" tours of the Capitol a day before violent supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the building.

"We're requesting an investigation right now with certain agencies," Sherrill, D-11th Dist., said at the Capitol.

In a letter sent Wednesday to the Capitol Police and acting sergeants at arms for the House and Senate, Sherrill and 33 other lawmakers said they noted an "extremely high number of outside groups" in the Capitol complex on Jan. 5, which was unusual because access "has been restricted since public tours ended in March of last year due to the pandemic."

The letter said the visitors "appeared to be associated with the rally at the White House the following day" and "seemed to have an unusually detailed knowledge of the layout of the Capitol complex."

Sherrill said on a Facebook Live event Tuesday evening that some of the lawmakers who supported Trump's efforts to overturn Joe Biden's election had

SEE SHERRILL, A8

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Millions more now eligible for vaccine in N.J.

Anyone over 65, smokers and people with medical conditions included

Matt Arco and Karin Price Mueller *For The Star-Ledger*

In a major expansion of the state's inoculation program, those 65 or older or people between ages 16 and 64 who have certain medical conditions will be eligible to get the coronavirus vaccine starting today, Gov. Phil Murphy announced Wednesday.

The move enlarges eligibility in the state dramatically. Up to 4.47 million people meet vaccination eligibility as of today: 2 million smokers, 1.47 million people older than 65 and up to 1 million people with other chronic illnesses.

The change to include those two groups comes after the federal government modified its recommendations late Tuesday. The state has received 654,900 doses to date, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than 264,000 doses of the vaccine administered in New Jersey as of Wednesday.

"With the anticipation of increased deliveries of vaccines, as the federal government will no longer be holding back (second) doses, we are confident in taking these steps," Murphy said during his regular COVID-19 briefing in Trenton. "We have set the infrastructure we need to do this job,

SEE VACCINES, A10

State reports new record for daily case numbers

Officials announce nearly 7,000 positive tests and 95 additional deaths in New Jersey. **A13**

STATEHOUSE

Legislative veteran Loretta Weinberg to retire at term's end

State Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg, D-Bergen, said she won't run for reelection in November but will finish her fourth full term in the Senate, which ends next January.

Brent Johnson *For The Star-Ledger*

After nearly a 30-year career in Trenton, state Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg, one of New Jersey's most influential lawmakers and the highest-ranking woman in the Legislature, announced Wednesday she will retire when her term ends.

The 85-year-old Bergen County Democrat — who has helped usher in substantial laws on everything from gun control and transportation to women's rights and preventing sexual harassment and assault — said she won't run for reelection in November but will finish her fourth full term in the Senate, which ends next January.

Asked why she's retiring, Weinberg said: "This is the time that felt right to me.

"I've told people that I feel overwhelmed," she said during a virtual news conference. "I feel emotional. But I don't feel conflicted about my decision. This is my time. I've served for long years. And it's time to move on to do the things that I enjoy doing, to have more time for my family."

For years, Weinberg has been as prominent and outspoken as she is revered. She unsuccessfully ran for

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